THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRADESH): (a)There is no scheme of the Central Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) to assist the rural poor in setting up village industries only through Government grants.

(b) and (c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Employment for rural poors

3202. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural industries are able to give employment to rural poor in a big way;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures planned to help this sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For several years, the Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, both credit-linked subsidy schemes, to assist establishment of rural industries for generation of employment.

Setting up of Nuclear Power Plant in Punjab

3203. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any Nuclear Power Plant in Punjab to overcome the electricity shortage;

(b) whether Punjab State Electricity Board has also demanded a Nuclear Power Plant for the State; and

(c) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) There have been requests received

from Government of Punjab for setting up of Nuclear Power Plant in Punjab. However, at present, there is no proposal to set up a Nuclear power Plant in Punjab. Nuclear power projects are Central Sector Projects and therefore, all the States in an Electricity Region have their share of power from nuclear power stations, regardless of their physical location. Punjab has a share of power from the nuclear power plants in Northern Electricity Region.

Uranium mining in Andhra Pradesh

3204. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department has proposed uranium mining and processing plant at Nalgonda district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its proposal before the Ministry of Environment and Forests for environmental clearance;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any consultations in this regard with the Government of Andhra Pradesh was held; and

(f) if so, the response of the Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy proposes to set up an opencast mine and an underground mine at Lambapur and two underground mines at Peddagattu in Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh;

UCIL also proposes to set up a Uranium Processing Plant at Seripally village in Deverkonda Mandal in Andhra Pradesh. The estimated cost of the Mining and Milling project is Rs. 558.42 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The site clearance has been obtained from Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). An application has been submitted to MoEF for environmental clearance in respect of setting up of mines. The Expert committee of MoEF has recommended the proposal for final environmental cleanance. Formal clearance from MoEF is awaited.